

Report

Tumacacori National Historical Park

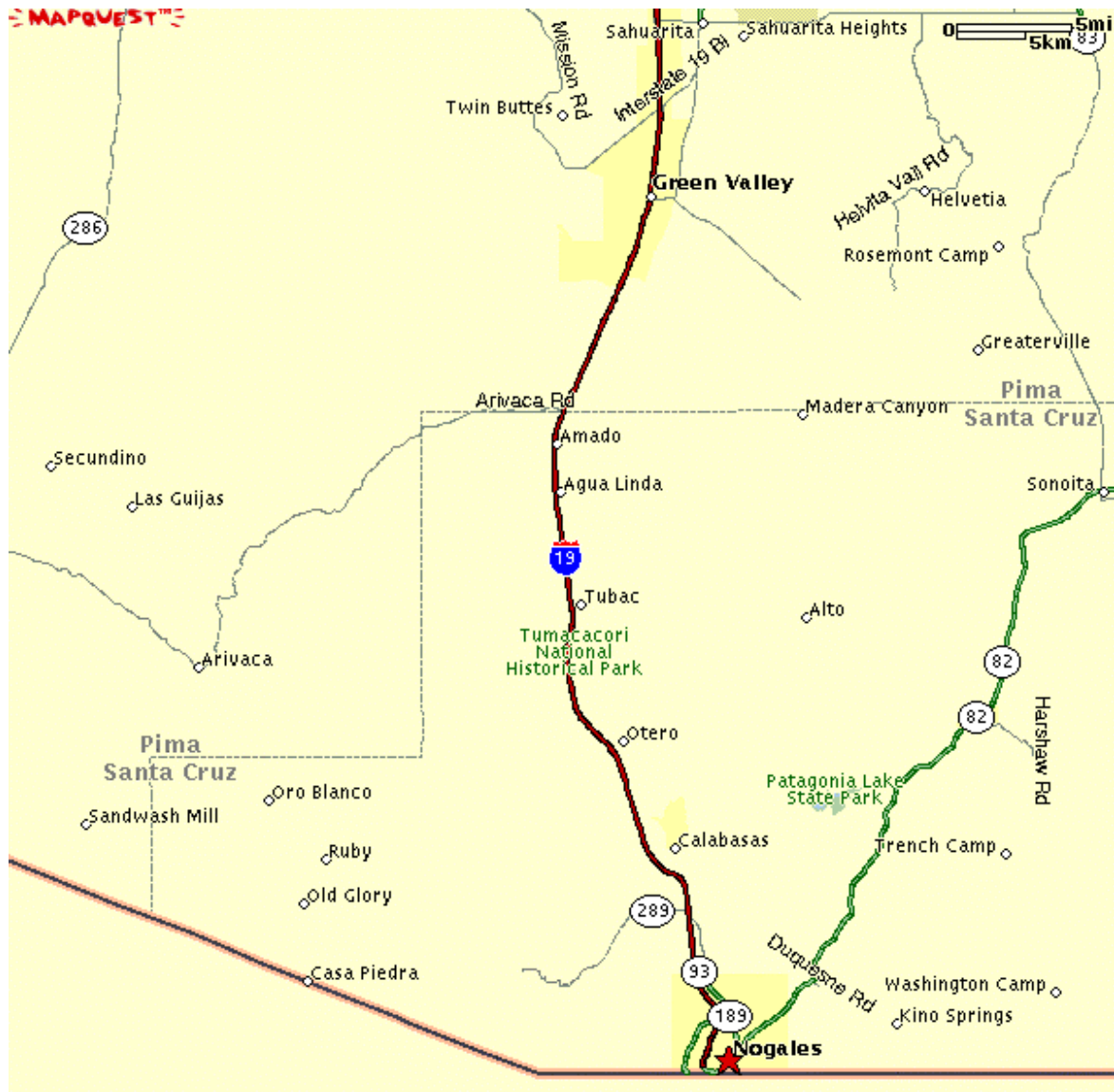
■ 1.0 Site Description



Tumacacori National Historical Park (NHP) was established in 1908 as a National Monument to preserve the Tumacacori Mission, a Spanish Mission ruin and one of the oldest in the southwestern United States. In 1990, two additional Spanish Colonial Mission sites were added and the designation of the site was changed to a NHP. The three sites total approximately 45 acres and are located within 15 miles of each other in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, 40 miles south of Tucson and 18 miles north of Nogales at the United States-Mexico border. Access to the sites is provided from State Highway 89 via Interstate 19 (see Figure 1). A description of the three sites is provided below.

- **Tumacacori Mission** – This 15.5-acre site is a designated National Historic Landmark and provides an outstanding example of mission revival architecture, containing historic structures and excavated ruins of the original Spanish mission. In addition to the mission and associated ruins, the site contains a Visitor Center, associated buildings, and parking for approximately 35 cars. The parking area is accessible from State Highway 89. The site is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas, for an entrance fee of \$2.00 per person or \$4.00 per vehicle.
- **Calabazas** – This site consists of approximately 22 acres located seven miles south of the Tumacacori Mission. The Calabazas site contains the ruins of a Franciscan church, and other subsurface ruins. The site is only open to the public through guided tours from Tumacacori Mission, and does not contain any visitor-serving facilities. Currently one tour is offered per week from October through May. The General Management Plan (GMP) proposes construction of a residence/visitor contact station and an unpaved parking area for seven to 10 vehicles.

Figure 1. The Vicinity Map

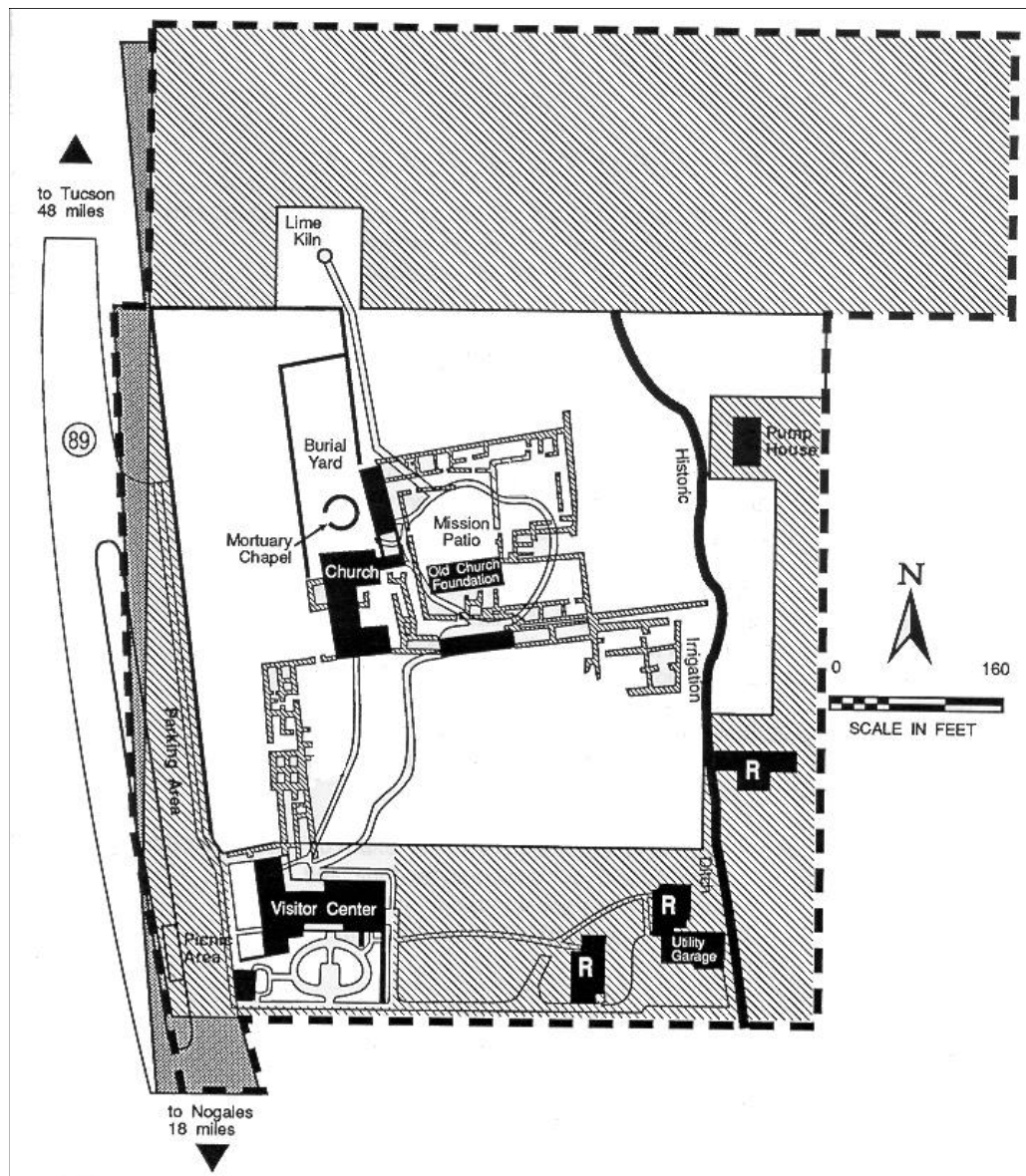


- Guevavi** – This 7.8-acre site is located 12 miles south of Tumacacori and contains the ruins of Mission Guevavi, the first Jesuit church in what is now Arizona. There are no visitor facilities at Guevavi and as with Calabazas, the site is only open to the public through guided tours from Tumacacori Mission. Future plans are to open Guevavi for guided tours via vans only.

Annual visitation to the Tumacacori NHP averages 60,000 to 65,000 persons. The peak months for visitation are January through March. During peak periods daily visitation averages 400 persons and during off-peak periods averages 50 to 70 persons. The typical visit to Tumacacori lasts approximately one hour and is generally combined with a visit to the United States-Mexican Border at Nogales, Arizona. Visitors that take guided tours to Calabaza and Guevavi are generally residents of the nearby Green Valley community.

The land area for all three sites is relatively small and surrounded by private property. The relatively small site and limited visitor facilities means that large crowds could adversely impact surrounding land uses, damage the cultural resources, and diminish the visitor experience. At the Tumacacori Mission, there is no room to expand existing parking facilities, either onsite or nearby off-site (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Tumacacori Site Map



■ 2.0 Existing ATS

The Alternative Transportation System (ATS) currently in use is the 15-passenger van used to provide guided tours of the Calabaza and Guevavi Units. As stated previously, these tours are conducted weekly from October through May.

■ 3.0 ATS Needs

There were no additional identified ATS needs for the short term. Currently, the parking demand exceeds the capacity of the Tumacacori NHP parking lot three days per year during the Annual Fiesta in early December and during Christmas Eve Luminarias. Otherwise there are generally sufficient parking spaces to meet demand. In addition, guided tours to Calabaza and Guevavi are not always filled to capacity. Should demand justify additional tours, operational costs and insufficient staffing are the major obstacles to be overcome.

A potential long-term ATS need would be an external shuttle system linking Tumacacori NHP with other area cultural sites such as: the Presidio, San Xavier, San Augustin Mission, and Nogales, Arizona.

■ 4.0 Basis of ATS Needs

A shuttle systems connecting Tumacacori NHP with other area attractions has the potential to increase the visitor experience and interpretive program opportunities.

■ 5.0 Bibliography

National Park Service. *General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Tumacacori National Historical Park*, September 1996.

<http://www.nps.gov/tuma/> (visited November 1, 1999).

<http://www.desertusa.com/tuma/index.html> (visited November 1, 1999).

■ 6.0 Persons Interviewed

Ann Rasor, Superintendent, Tumacacori National Historic Park